

REMARKS

Claims 1-103 are cancelled. Claims 104-117 have been added.

Applicant wishes to thank Examiners Fisher and Haghighatian for the recent, helpful and courteous discussion conducted with his representative, Mr. William Beaumont. The following remarks are consistent with that discussion as well as with the claims hereby presented.

Further, it is believed that these remarks also support the patentability of the claims presented.

The claims have been redrafted merely to clarify the claimed invention.

Independent claims 104, 111 and 115 all reflect the discovery leading to the claimed invention, that in preparing the plant nutrient composition of the present invention, it is important that phosphoric acid salts or nitric acid salts, such as potassium phosphate or potassium nitrate, respectively; not be added to bivalent metallic salts of sulfamic acid without being in the presence of an aqueous acidic medium, in particular, phosphoric acid.

Thus, claim 104 is directed to an acidic stock plant nutrient composition which contains an aqueous solution of bivalent metallic sulfamate and phosphoric acid. This composition allows for the further addition of various compounds that will not lead to precipitation. In contrast, addition of potassium nitrate or potassium phosphate to an aqueous solution of bivalent metallic sulfamates will lead to precipitation.

Claim 111 is directed to a composition that is produced by a process which entails mixing water and phosphoric acid, adding one or more bivalent metallic sulfamates and then adding other salts, such as salts of nitric acid and phosphoric acid.

Claim 115 is directed to a composition that is produced by a process which entails adding salts of nitric acid or phosphoric acid to the composition of claim 104.

In all cases, the addition of the salts of phosphoric acid or nitric acid to the one or more bivalent metallic sulfamates only occurs in an acidic aqueous medium, which medium is rendered acid by the presence of phosphoric acid.

Clearly, Woodhouse et al., cited previously in the prosecution of this application, neither discloses nor suggests the claimed subject matter. There are several reasons for this conclusion.

First, Woodhouse et al., neither discloses nor suggests that addition of any salts of phosphoric acid or nitric acid must be added to salts of sulfamic acid under acidic conditions, let alone in the presence phosphoric acid.

Second, Woodhouse et al., does not even mention use of acidic conditions for any reason whatsoever. To the contrary, given that Woodhouse et al., emphasizes the use of nitrifying liquors, such as ammonia, in the disclosed compositions, one skilled in the art would readily comprehend that the Woodhouse et al., compositions are, in fact, basic. Thus, Woodhouse et al., actually teaches away from the claimed invention in using a basic-medium for the disclosed fertilizers.

Third, Woodhouse et al., neither discloses nor suggests avoiding precipitation in order to obtain water-solution compositions. In fact, the Woodhouse compositions are not water-solution compositions, but rather are slurries or emulsions.

Finally, it is urged that the above claims are patentable over the cumulative prior art of record.

Accordingly, favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. E. Beaumont", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

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